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A.—(*a*) The Government have seen an account published in the 'Hindu', dated 21st October 1935, of the arrest and release of a defaulter in the South Kanara district and have received a memorandum on the subject from the hon. Member. They have called for a report from the Collector.

(*b*) The Government have not the information.

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" May I know, Sir, whether, in view of the serious distress in the sub-taluks of Hosdrug, the Hon. Member will consider the question of reclassifying the lands on which pepper is grown and bringing them into line with the classification obtaining in the neighbouring district of Malabar? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" Does that question arise out of question No. 448, Sir? "

The Hon. the President:—" Yes, by indirect implication."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know what the position of the Government is with regard to this, especially after the sympathetic assurances given by the Hon. Member on the floor of the House in reply to the adjournment motion? Has the enquiry been made?

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" The Government have received no further information yet."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi:—" May I ask if the Government propose to delete the provision from the Statute? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" I think, Sir, the hon. Member will get the answer if he will read my speech on the adjournment motion."

Collection of enhanced water-rate in the Cauvery-irrigated area of the Namakkal taluk without previous notice.

11-15 a.m. * 449 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government without previous individual notice to the ryots collected the enhanced water-rate in the Cauvery-irrigated area of Namakkal taluk of Salem district by coercive process in fasli 1344;

(*b*) if so, how the Government justify their course of action;

(*c*) what the actual amount is of water-rate collections in fasli 1343 and in fasli 1344 (separately) in each of the following, viz., Selur estate, Kunnathur Agraharam, Bommalapalaiyam Agraharam of Namakkal taluk;

(*d*) what the percentage of increase is;

(*e*) whether there has been any precedent to enhance the water-rate at that percentage;

(*f*) whether the Government consulted the Law officers or ascertained public opinion as to the propriety, legality or expediency of enhancing the water-rate at this unusual percentage;

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(*g*) whether the Government are aware of the local feeling of the ryots about the injustice of the levy and collection of such high water-rate; and

(*h*) if so, what remedy they propose for it?

A.—(*a*) The Government are not aware that the facts are as suggested;

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government have no information.

(*e*) The rates of water-cess for irrigation from the Cauvery channels in the Salem district are the same as those prescribed for irrigation from similar channels in the Trichinopoly district and in the old delta of the Tanjore district.

(*f*) The Government fully considered the legal and other aspects of the question before issuing the rules fixing the rates and published the rules for criticism before finally issuing them.

(*g*) & (*h*) The Government have received representations from certain landholders in the Salem district, which are under consideration. The Government have also sanctioned the levy of water-cess at concessional rates for fasli 1345.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" In answer to (*a*) it is said that the Government are not aware that the facts are as suggested and with regard to (*c*) and (*d*) the Government have no information. May I request the Government, Sir, to enquire and ascertain the facts about them since the whole question is under consideration."

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" I see no reason to call for any information in this particular case."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I know, Sir, whether the water-rates both in Tanjore and Trichinopoly were in the same level prior to the issue of the Government Order? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" My recollection is that."

Kist payable on paimash garden lands in certain villages of Namakkal taluk.

* 450 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the prevailing rate is of kist payable for paimash garden lands on the borders of the Cauvery channel in the proprietary estates and inam villages in Namakkal taluk of Salem district;

(*b*) by what percentage it is higher than ordinary dry rates in the adjoining dry lands; and

(*c*) what justification the Government have for levying extra water-rate on those garden lands?